ABSTRACT

An output signal of a CCD or other solid-state imaging device (101) is converted at an A/D converter (102) into a digital signal, which is in turn loaded in a latch (103). The latch (103) comprises a delay unit, a line memory, etc. to hold pixel data demanded by a defective pixel detection algorithm. A normal pixel detection block (104) is adapted to receive a signal from the A/D converter (102) to determine whether the pixel to be inspected is a normal one or a possibly defective one, and send out the result of determination to a defective pixel detection block (105). When the pixel to be inspected is determined as defective, a defective pixel correction block (106) is operable to implement correction processing, producing a correction output (107).